



March 23, 2004

## Federal indictments charge two with weapons offenses

A federal grand jury has returned indictments charging **Mark Bombardier**, of Pawtucket, and **Carlos Rodriguez**, of Providence, with being felons in possession of firearms.

The Office of the United States Attorney, Monty J. Monteiro, Resident Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Colonel Steven M. Pare, Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police, Colonel Dean Esserman, Chief of the Providence Police Department, and Pawtucket Police Chief George L. Kelley III jointly announced the indictments, which the grand jury returned on March 17. The indictments resulted from separate, unrelated investigations that were conducted as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes.

**Bombardier**, DOB 8/20/79, of 13 Columbine Avenue, 2d Floor, Pawtucket is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm, a .22 caliber pistol, and possessing with intent to distribute marijuana on November 24. The **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Rhode Island State Police**, and **Pawtucket Police** conducted the investigation.

**Rodriguez**, DOB 5/25/77, of 869 Manton Avenue, Providence, is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm, a 7.62 millimeter pistol, on January 24. **Providence Police** and **ATF** conducted the investigation.

Both defendants pleaded not guilty at their arraignments yesterday before Magistrate Judge David L. Martin and were ordered detained pending trial.

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An indictment is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The statutory maximum penalties for the offenses charged in the indictments are: being a felon in possession of a firearm – ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine; possessing with intent to distribute marijuana – five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Federal sentencing is determined on the basis of guidelines that take into account on such factors as the specific nature of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

### **Project Safe Neighborhoods**

Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch is prosecuting both cases. They are being prosecuted federally under a **Project Safe Neighborhoods** initiative in which firearms cases are jointly reviewed by the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office to determine where best to prosecute them.

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